

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Original)** A method of protecting portions of containers from being coated while other portions of the containers are being coated, comprising:

making containers from a first material;

coating the containers with a second material; and

prior to coating, covering portions of the containers to remain uncoated with shields of the first material,

wherein the shields are made from scraps of the first material produced from the making of the containers.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the containers are bottles.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the portions of the bottles to be protected from coating are the portions of the bottles that will contact bottle closures.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first material is polyethylene terephthalate.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the second material ~~can~~ cures to form an oxygen barrier.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising making the shields by injection molding.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the shields contact the containers, and the containers are electrostatically charged to attract the second material.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the containers are coated with the second material by spraying.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the containers are releasably supported on a conveyor during coating and removed from the conveyor after coating, and the shields are connected to the conveyor during and after the coating.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 9, wherein shields are removably held on the conveyor by a friction fit.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10, wherein the conveyor is shut down periodically for maintenance, and the shields are removed from the conveyor and disposed of during the shutdown.

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method of protecting portions of containers from being coated while other portions of the containers are being coated, comprising:

making containers from a first material;

coating the containers with a second material;

prior to coating, covering portions of the containers to remain uncoated with shields made from scraps of the first material produced from the making of the containers,

wherein the shields contact the containers, the containers are electrostatically charged to attract the second material, and the containers are made from polyethylene terephthalate.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein containers are coated with the second material by spraying.

15. **(Currently Amended)** A method of protecting portions of containers from being coated while other portions of the containers are being coated, comprising:

making containers from a first material;

coating the containers with a second material;

prior to coating, covering portions of the containers to remain uncoated with shields made from scraps of the first material produced from the making of the containers,

wherein the containers are releasably supported on a conveyor during coating and removed from the conveyor after coating, the shields are connected to the conveyor during and after the coating, and the shields are removably held on the conveyor by a friction fit.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method of protecting portions of containers from being coated while other portions of the containers are being coated, comprising:

making containers from a first material;

coating the containers with a second material;

prior to coating, covering portions of the containers to remain uncoated with shields made from scraps of the first material produced from the making of the containers,

wherein the containers are releasably supported on a conveyor during coating and removed from the conveyor after coating, the shields are connected to the conveyor during and after the coating, the conveyor is shut down periodically for maintenance, and the shields are removed from the conveyor and disposed of during the shutdown.

17. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the shields do not hold a threaded engagement portion of a finish of the containers.

18. **(New)** The method of claim 13, wherein the shields do not hold a threaded engagement portion of a finish of the containers.

19. **(New)** The method of claim 15, wherein the shields do not hold a threaded engagement portion of a finish of the containers.

20. **(New)** The method of claim 16, wherein the shields do not hold a threaded engagement portion of a finish of the containers